



At *Community & Parents for Public Schools of Portland*, we believe that public education is one of the cornerstones of democracy.

We know that this vital institution is in the midst of some pretty tough times. Funding is inadequate, many of our kids fall between the cracks or are left behind altogether, and even education advocates are unable to agree on a direction to help bring about change to benefit public school students. One thing we do know is that schools work better when parents are acknowledged and encouraged to be partners in their children's education. Research shows us again and again that effective parent involvement is critical to a child's success in school.

CPPS is a local chapter of [Parents for Public Schools](#), an organization dedicated to strengthening public schools by engaging, educating and mobilizing parents.

Here's what that looks like in Portland:

Educating Parents

CPPS has organized nine Parent Leadership Conferences to educate and empower parents to support their child's education. Workshops include topics for parents brand-new to school involvement, as well as subjects for those who are already engaged. Attendance has grown to nearly 300, and these Conferences have been recognized as one of the most culturally diverse gatherings of parents in Portland Public Schools. Sessions have been offered in Spanish and Vietnamese, written materials are translated in 4 different languages, and interpreters are available for all attendees.

Engaging Parents

In 2013-14 we found an opportunity to partner with both Earl Boyles Elementary in the David Douglas School District and Lynchwood Elementary in the Centennial School District to host Celebration of Families Supporting Students events. During these special evenings we help facilitate discussions with families to talk with one another about their strategies to keep kids on track at school. We also discuss methods for improving communication with teachers and administrators.

Mobilizing Parents

CPPS has taken an active role in several school funding measures. We've endorsed measures that we believe will strengthen public schools and encouraged our members to join in volunteer efforts to help pass levies, bonds and ballot measures.

As of May 1, 2014, another local school advocacy group, Our Portland Our Schools (OPOS), has merged into CPPS. The addition of OPOS broadens CPPS focus to improving Portland Public Schools at the district-wide level, especially ensuring responsible use of the funds from an ambitious series of school construction bonds begun in 2012. OPOS work is very compatible with CPPS work, and will be a major project of the Portland chapter. Here's the link to the OPOS webpage:

<http://www.ourportlandourschools.com/index.html>

Supporting a Vision

At CPPS, we hold a vision of what our public schools can be – places where students, school staff and families come together for successful outcomes for all of Portland's students. We know that we can't do this important work alone. We need you!

For more on CPPS

Visit our website: <http://www.cppsportland.org>

To join or contribute, contact us at:

CPPS
PO Box 5322
Portland Oregon 97208-5322
(503) 220-0577

Or use this link: <http://www.cppsportland.org/content/join-us>